

Uintah County Sheriff Rick Hawkins reports that the last Memorial Day and graduation weekend was one of the quietest in recent history despite a myriad of events that could have created problems for law enforcement.

The weekend started the graduation ceremony at High School on Thursday.

"It appears that the graduating student body the senior night event in Vernal," said Sheriff would like to commercial merchants and organizations participated in this event. Indication it was a Friday morning the served over 250 breakfast graduates. The report from the Lodge was that there were 'extremely courteous' were having a genuine

on Friday Union High School's formation was held. Friday afternoon, Uintah County deputies responded to Cottonwood Reservoir where there were 300 Union High students. The deputies spoke to all of the students and found that

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⇒ AMERICAN GILSONITE

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## BLM approves expansion of Gilsonite operation

The Bureau of Land Management has completed an Environmental Assessment for an expansion of the American Gilsonite operation in Bonanza.

In the EA is included a decision of No Significant Impact.

"The decision to allow the proposed Action will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. Fan noise which might reach the White River would be mitigated by orienting fans in a direction which minimizes such noise from reaching the White River," said David Howell, Vernal BLM Field Office manager.

The total new surface disturbance amounts to between 2.228 and 4.58 acres. Approval allows the American Gilsonite Company to resume mining on the Wagon Hound vein by the emplacement of two new shafts and auxiliary gilsonite mining facilities. If historic or archeology materials are uncovered during the construction, the operator is to immediately stop work that might further disturb such materi-

als, and contact the Authorized Office.

The Wagon Hound vein is one of the many gilsonite veins that occur in the northeastern portion of the Uinta Basin. Gilsonite is a solid, brittle hydrocarbon formed when liquid hydrocarbons from the kero-gen-rich beds of the upper part of the Green River formation flowed into near vertical fractures in the Uinta Formation and subsequently solidified to form veins.

Gilsonite has been mined extensively in the Bonanza area since the latter part of the 19th century and is shipped worldwide for use in, among other things, the production of inks, sealing mastics, explosives, paints and varnishes and some types of nuclear reactors.

New surface disturbance would include approximately 200 feet of new road, a 30-foot right-of-way, to access one of the shafts, a 50-foot diameter area around each of the new escape shaft, a 150-foot diameter area around each mine shaft would be cleared of vegetation for fire protection.

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